

Historic, Archive Document

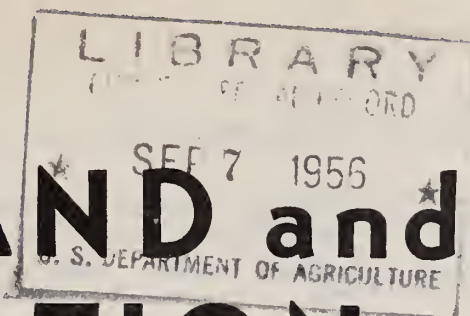
Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

9
752 Pa

The

DEMAND and PRICE SITUATION

DPS-3



FOR RELEASE
MAR. 25, P. M.
1955

~~Evans~~
~~Sanley~~
~~Abelson~~
~~Murray~~
~~van der Zanden~~

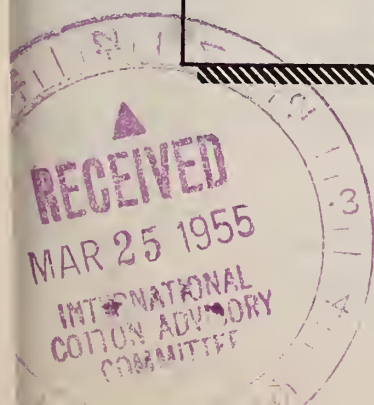


Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, March 21, 1955

SUMMARY

Another large crop output is in prospect for 1955 if weather conditions are average and growers carry out their March 1 planting intentions. In addition, combined output of livestock products probably will exceed the record production in 1954. Planting intentions are not forecasts; acreages actually planted will depend on the weather, price changes, availability of credit and many other factors. Although prospective plantings indicate about the same total acreage as last year, sizable shifts are contemplated for some crops. Much of the acreage diverted from allotment crops will be planted to soybeans, feed grains and hay, and pasture according to March 1 plans. The 1955 acreage of feed grains will be a little above last year's level and the largest in recent years. Indicated acreages of potatoes, dry edible beans and dry peas are also higher. These increases would be partly offset by prospective reductions in wheat acreage of 12 percent, tobacco 5 percent, flaxseed 4 percent, rice about 27 percent and sugar beets, 13 percent. The national acreage allotment for the 1955 cotton crop calls for 18.2 million acres compared with 20 million acres in cultivation last July.

(Continued on page 3)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

ECONOMIC FACTORS AFFECTING AGRICULTURE

Item	Unit or base period	1953	1954			1955	
		Year	Feb.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
Industrial production <u>1/</u>							
Total.....	1947-49=100	134	125	128	130	131	133
All manufactures.....	do.	136	126	130	131	133	134
Durable goods.....	do.	153	139	142	143	145	147
Nondurable goods.....	do.	118	114	118	119	120	121
Minerals.....	do.	116	113	113	116	118	121
Total outlay for new construc- tion <u>2/</u>	Million dollars	35,256	3,051	3,192	3,262	3,379	3,393
Residential.....	do.	11,930	980	1,228	1,262	1,323	1,326
Total civilian employment <u>3/</u>	Million	61.9	60.1	61.7	60.7	60.2	59.9
Nonagricultural.....	do.	55.4	54.4	55.6	55.4	54.9	54.9
Unemployment.....	do.	1.5	3.7	2.9	2.8	3.3	3.4
Income:							
Nonagricultural payments <u>2/4/#</u> ...	Bil. dol.	270.0	268.2	274.6	276.5	275.5	
Production-worker payrolls <u>5/</u> ...	1947-49=100	151.6	140.5	142.7	143.9	141.5	
Weekly earnings of production- workers in manufacturing <u>5/</u> ...	Dollars	71.69	71.28	73.57	74.30	73.97	74.93
Durable.....	do.	77.23	76.38	79.15	80.15	86.16	80.75
Nondurable.....	do.	63.60	64.02	65.97	66.30	66.02	66.36
Prices:							
Wholesale prices, all com- modities <u>5/</u>	1947-49=100	110	110	110	110	110	111
Commodities other than farm and food.....	do.	114	114	115	115	115	114
Farm.....	do.	97	98	93	90	93	98
Food, processed.....	do.	105	105	104	104	104	105
Prices received by farmers <u>6/</u> ...	1910-14=100	258	258	244	239	244	245
Crops.....	do.	242	237	244	241	248	245
Livestock and products.....	do.	273	277	243	237	240	244
Prices paid, interest, taxes and wage rates <u>6/</u>	1910-14=100	279	282	279	279	283	283
Items used in living.....	do.	270	271	272	272	273	271
Items used in production.....	do.	253	254	251	250	254	256
Parity ratio.....		92	91	87	86	86	87
Consumer price index <u>5/</u>	1947-49=100	114	115	115	114	114	
Food.....	do.	113	113	111	110	111	
Government purchases of goods and services <u>2/ 7/</u>	Billion dollars	85.2			74.1		
Federal (less Government sales):	do.	60.1			45.9		
State and local.....	do.	25.1			28.2		

Annual data for the years 1929, 1932 and 1935-53 appear on page 31 of the April 1954 issue of the Demand and Price Situation.

1/ Federal Reserve Board.

2/ U. S. Department of Commerce.

3/ Bureau of the Census.

4/ Monthly totals seasonally adjusted at annual rates.

5/ U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

6/ U. S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service.

7/ Quarterly totals seasonally adjusted at annual rates.

Revised series.

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>		<u>Page</u>
: Summary	1	: Wheat	17
: General Business Conditions	5	: Fruit	18
: Imports of Agricultural Products. 9		: Commercial Vegetables	19
: Farm Income	12	: Potatoes and Sweetpotatoes. 20	
: Livestock and Meat	12	: Dry Edible Beans and Peas.. 21	
: Dairy Products	13	: Cotton	22
: Poultry and Eggs	14	: Wool	23
: Oilseeds, Fats and Oils	15	: Tobacco	24
: Corn and Other Feed	16		

Continued from cover page -

Grower prices in January and February averaged a little above the level of October-December 1954. Prices paid for commodities, interest, taxes and wages (the parity index) also rose slightly from the average for the fourth quarter and the parity ratio has held steady at about 87 in recent months. Supplies of farm products continue large and farm prices are lower than a year ago.

Industrial activity and construction continued to rise in February pushing total economic activity and consumer incomes to levels well above both the opening and closing quarters of 1954. Retail sales leveled off in January and February at a seasonally adjusted rate above the fourth quarter and nearly 8 percent above a year earlier. Recent reports on consumers' buying intentions and businessmen's sales expectations both point to a continued rise in consumer buying.

Business outlays for new plant and equipment declined slightly further in the first quarter but investment spending will rise in the second quarter according to plans reported to the Commerce Department and Securities and Exchange Commission in February and early March. Investment plans for 1955 as a whole indicate a small increase from 1954, mostly in commercial facilities and utilities. Programmed outlays total smaller in 1955 for manufacturing industries, mining and railroads. Business investment in inventories held steady in December and January at a level which, with increased sales, reflects a considerable improvement in ratios of stocks to sales over the past year.

Commodity Highlights

Hog prices at central markets in mid-March were more than a third below a year earlier; slaughter so far this year is almost a fifth larger. The delayed seasonal decline in hog slaughter is expected to begin in April. Prices of hogs probably will increase this spring but are likely to remain below a year ago.

Early March prices of better grades of fed cattle were above a year ago but prices of cows were below last March. Prices of the higher grades are expected to average at least as high as last year for the first half of 1955.

Sheep and lamb slaughter this spring will probably continue slightly below 1954 levels. Prices of lambs have increased this winter but are still below a year ago.

Production of milk in February was lower than a year earlier for the third consecutive month while consumption of fluid milk and some manufactured products continued higher. Sales to the Government under the price support program have been considerably less than a year earlier.

Prices farmers receive for eggs during the next six months probably will be higher than a year ago. Broiler prices continued into March at a level that induced slightly higher placements in broiler producing areas than a year ago.

March 1 reports indicate a $6\frac{1}{2}$ percent increase in acreage of soybeans and a $4\frac{1}{2}$ percent smaller acreage of flaxseed. Soybean prices have declined during the past month reflecting large supplies of beans and lower prices for soybean products. Exports are still running ahead of a year ago.

Prices of corn and most other feeds declined during February and in the first half of March were generally lower than a year earlier. Large acreages of oats, barley and sorghum grain are again in prospect this year.

Wheat prices are expected to continue near present levels until prospects for new crops become clear. Market supplies are likely to be tight until harvest of the new crop begins.

The demand for fresh vegetables is expected to be at least as strong this spring as last. Relative prices of fresh and processed vegetables in the next few months will be about the same as a year earlier. Potato prices in the next several weeks are expected to be higher than earlier in 1955 and well above the corresponding period in 1954.

Stocks of upland cotton not held by CCC on March 1 were relatively large--6.9 million bales and prices declined during the month. These stocks are probably adequate for domestic use and exports until mid-year without large withdrawals from CCC.

Prices for wool in both domestic and foreign markets in early March were about the same as a month earlier but slightly below a year earlier. Domestic mills in January consumed apparel wool at a rate about 14 percent above January 1954.

The manufacture of tobacco products is expected to absorb about the same quantity of leaf during the 1954-55 marketing year as in 1953-54. Exports of unmanufactured tobacco will exceed those of 1953-54 by 5 percent or more.

GENERAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

Economic activity continued to improve in the early months of 1955. Output of the Nation's mines and factories in January and February was 3 percent above the last quarter and about 6 percent above a year earlier. Construction activity also rose and in early 1955 was 6 percent above the October-December rate and 13 percent above January-February 1954. Retail sales were steady in early 1955 at a seasonally adjusted level 2 percent above October-December 1954 and nearly 8 percent above a year earlier. Although business outlays for plant and equipment declined slightly in the first quarter, plans for the second quarter point to some pick up in investment. Employment in February was not significantly changed from January as gains in manufacturing were offset by seasonal declines in other activities.

Consumer Income and Spending Rises

Total income payments, at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 291 billion dollars in January, reflect a further increase in consumer incomes after taxes of around 1 percent from the fourth quarter rate. Most of the recent gain was in wages and salaries which in January totaled 199 billion dollars, 4.3 billion above January 1954. Compared with a year ago, the rate of transfer payments (social insurance benefits and veteran's payments) totaled nearly 2 billion dollars more than the January 1954 annual rate.

Use of consumer credit has increased with the rise in sales over the past year. Installment credit extended for automobiles rose with the increase in automotive sales but the relative gain was moderate--from about 40 percent of automotive sales in January 1954 to 43½ percent this January. At the end of January installment credit outstanding was down only 31 million dollars from the end of December and was around 600 million above a year earlier. Noninstallment credit outstanding which includes charge accounts, also down seasonally from the end of the year, totaled some 360 million dollars above January 31, 1954. Total consumer credit outstanding, though down seasonally from December, was nearly a billion dollars larger than a year earlier.

With high incomes and increased use of consumer credit, seasonally adjusted retail sales in January and February were more than 2 percent above the fourth quarter average and 7 to 8 percent above a year earlier. Most of the recent gain was due to increased sales of durable goods, particularly automobiles. New car sales in January and February totaled more than a million units, around 40 percent above the same months of 1954. But automobiles are also being turned out at a record clip and dealers' stocks increased from 357 thousand units at year-end to 560 thousand by the end of February. Stocks apparently are continuing their rise in March. Sales of nondurable goods in January and February held near the October-December rate. Food store sales were down from recent months but about 3 percent above a year earlier. Over the past year sales of nondurable goods have kept pace with the rise in consumer incomes.

A recent survey of consumer buying plans reported by the Federal Reserve Board points to increased expenditures for automobiles, houses, furnishings and major household appliances, and home improvements. Consumers were also somewhat more optimistic in early 1955 about their income prospects than they were in the early months of 1954. Moreover, businessmen expected sales increases in 1955 over 1954. Manufacturers anticipate a gain of 4 percent, trade firms 6 percent and public utilities 8 percent.

Residential Building At Record High

The value of new residential construction put in place in January and February was at a rate 7 percent above the fourth quarter and more than a third larger than a year earlier. Construction of related facilities other than residential and industrial--commercial, religious, educational, recreational, etc.--was up approximately a fifth from a year earlier. With easier mortgage terms and a strong consumer market, new home starts in early 1955 were at a record annual rate for the period of 1.4 million units. This was more than a fourth above January and February 1954. Residential construction contract awards in early 1955, at a level more than 50 percent above January 1954, and new home starts should assure a high rate of home building this spring.

Construction outlays for industrial facilities declined during most of 1954 and for the year totaled a tenth below 1953. However, industrial construction turned up in late 1954 and seasonally adjusted outlays in January and February were nearly 16 percent above October-December 1954. Outlays for private construction as a whole in January and February were at a seasonally adjusted rate 7 percent above the fourth quarter. Public construction expenditures also increased and in early 1955 were up around $4\frac{1}{2}$ percent from the closing quarter of 1954, reflecting largely increased outlay for highways, schools, and military facilities.

Government demand for goods and services is apparently holding fairly steady. Outlays for National security programs in January and February were a little below the fourth quarter rate. But the uptrend in expenditures by State and local governments continued in early 1955.

Industrial Production Rises Further

Output of the Nation's factories and mines rose in February after holding fairly steady in December and January. The Federal Reserve Board's seasonally adjusted index for February was 133 percent of the 1947-49 average, up 2 points from January. This was 9 points above the low in July and August and some 4 points below the peak reached in May 1953. Gains again occurred in output of durable goods. Production of passenger cars rose further in January and February to a total of 1,335 thousand units for the two months; up nearly 50 percent from a year earlier. Present schedules indicate the total for the first quarter will exceed 2 million units. Steel mills were operating around 92 percent of capacity by early March compared with about 83 in January. Production of building materials and household furnishings was maintained and further increases were reported for electrical machinery and industrial machinery, including machine tools.

Output of nondurable goods in general changed little in early 1955 but there was a sizable gain in output of rubber and leather products and petroleum and coal products from levels in the closing months of 1954.

Manufacturers' shipments in January held at the December level, reflecting a small pick up for durable goods industries and a decline for nondurable goods industries. Orders placed with manufacturers of durable goods rose further in January to a level nearly 50 percent above a year earlier. Order backlogs also increased as new orders exceeded deliveries but those for durable goods industries continued well below unfilled orders in January 1954.

Business Investment Demand Strengthening

The first quarter marks the end of the downturn in capital outlays which began in the fall of 1953, according to a recent Commerce Department-Security and Exchange Commission survey of businessmen's investment intentions. Scheduled expenditures for new plant and equipment will rise to about 27½ billion dollars in the second quarter from 26 billion in the first. Increases are indicated for manufacturing industries, public utilities and the commercial and other group. The small gain programmed for 1955 over 1954 implies that the second quarter gain will be well maintained in the last half of the year.

Business investment in inventories leveled out in December and January after adjustment for seasonal differences. According to recent Commerce Department reports, business inventories, both manufacturing and trade, held at a seasonally adjusted total of 77.3 billion dollars in December and January, 3.3 billions below January 1954. A decline in manufacturers' stocks of 100 million dollars from December to January was offset by an increase in retailers' stocks. Increased retail stocks of durable goods were due primarily to larger dealer holdings of 1955 passenger cars. Stocks of nondurable goods averaged unchanged from December to the end of January as a rise in apparel and food store stocks was offset by reductions in stocks of general merchandise stores.

With the rise in sales over the past year and reduced stocks, ratios of stocks to sales improved. There was a considerable decline in stock-sales ratios for durable goods in general.

Employment Steady

Total employment declined slightly from January to February and unemployment registered a slight increase. After seasonal adjustment, however, employment changed little and unemployment continued its downward trend from mid-1954. Most of the change in employment in recent months has been due to seasonal factors. But durable goods manufacturers reported more than the usual seasonal increase in employment during February.

Hours of work increased significantly in February for most non-agricultural industries. The length of the work week was up moderately from a year earlier. The number of full time workers working only part-time in February was well below a year earlier and the number of non-agricultural workers employed full time was 2 million above February 1954.

Farm employment began to rise seasonally in February as spring field work got started in the South--February 20-26 employment was up 5 percent from a month earlier. Some planting and preparations for planting were under way in the South Atlantic Coast States and in the southern and central parts of the Gulf Coast States.

Commodity Prices

The wholesale price index for all commodities in February remained virtually unchanged from January and at about the same level as a year earlier. Farm products and processed foods averaged slightly below January. Compared with a year earlier farm products were down about 4 percent and processed foods about 1 percent.

The index of 22 basic commodities on March 4 was 3 percent below early February. Foodstuffs, livestock and products, and fats and oils accounted for most of the decline. After rising in January raw industrials declined more than 2 percent in February. Most of the decline was due to a 15 percent drop in rubber prices from February 1 to March 7. Cotton, hides, and tallow prices also declined significantly. The metals group continued to advance though at a somewhat slower pace than in January.

The urban consumer price index was unchanged at 114.3 (1947-49=100) in December and January, 1 percent below January a year ago. The index of prices paid by farmers for family living items was also stable, declining less than 1 percent from mid-January to mid-February when it was at the same level as in February 1954.

Prices Received by Farmers Steady

The index of prices received by farmers rose 1 percent from mid-January to mid-February. With the index of prices paid by farmers for commodities, interest, taxes, and wage rates unchanged, the parity ratio rose 1 point to 87. In recent months the parity ratio has held fairly steady, moderately below a year earlier.

Since mid-February central market prices of many major crops and livestock products have declined slightly. In the second week of March most of the grains, cotton, oilseeds, beef cattle and hogs were down a little from mid-February levels. However, broiler prices increased substantially and small gains were reported for potatoes and some other vegetables.

AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS

The supply of dollar exchange earned by foreign countries through the sale of goods for consumption in the United States declined by more than a half billion dollars from 1953 to 1954 ^{1/}. The sharpest decline in imports took place from mid-1953 through the first quarter of 1954 after which they leveled off. The overall reduction from 1953 was almost entirely in crude and semi-manufactured materials reflecting both a lower level of U. S. manufacturing output and considerable inventory liquidation. Imports of iron and steel, copper, tin, ferroalloying ores and metals, aluminum, rubber, and wool each declined by 20-30 percent or more in value between 1953 and 1954.

^{1/} General imports declined by 700 million dollars.

Agricultural Imports

Imports of agricultural products in 1954 were down 225 million dollars from 1953. A 14-percent drop in the so-called supplementary imports--commodities similar to those commercially produced in the U. S.--accounted for the net decline. Nonfood items such as apparel wool, hides and skins and vegetable oils accounted for most of the decline. Imports of sugar, oats, barley, and rye were also significantly lower.

Table 1.- Value of agricultural imports, United States,
1954 and change from 1953

Item	1954	Change from 1953
	<u>Mil. dol.</u>	<u>Mil. dol.</u>
Supplementary	1,557	-249
Cane sugar	409	-17
Meats and meat products	169	-8
Apparel wool	145	-57
Vegetable oils and oilseeds	142	-20
Tobacco, unmfed.	83	1
Hides and skins	50	-18
Nuts and preparations	49	-6
Barley and barley malt	40	-15
Oats and unhulled ground oats	26	-40
Cotton, excl. linters	26	-8
Rye and rye flour	5	-9
Other	413	-51
Complementary	2,401	24
Coffee	1,483	18
Rubber, crude	262	-69
Cocoa or cocoa beans	252	85
Carpet wool	78	-16
Bananas	65	-3
Tea	63	15
Abaca, sisal and lenequeu	39	-22
Other	159	15
Total agricultural	3,957	-225
Total non-agricultural	6,274	-323
Total imports for consumption	10,231	-548

Table 2.- Import quotas under Section 22 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act ^{1/}

Commodity (abbreviated description)	Unit	Annual quota	
		Beginning 1954	Quantity
<u>Cotton</u>			
Long staple (1 1/8" up to 1-11/16")	: 1,000 pounds	: Feb. 1	: 45,656
Harsh or rough (under 3/4")	: do.	: Sept. 20	: 70,000
Short staple (under 1 1/8" other than harsh or rough)	: do.	: Sept. 20	: 14,517
Cotton waste	: do.	: Sept. 20	: 5,483
<u>Grains ^{2/}</u>			
Wheat	: 1,000 bushels	: May 29	: 800
Wheat products ^{3/}	: 1,000 pounds	: May 29	: 4,000
Oats and unhulled ground oats	: 1,000 bushels	: Oct. 1	: 40,000
Barley and barley malt	: do.	: Oct. 1	: ^{4/} 27,500
Rye, rye flour, and meal	: 1,000 pounds	: July 1	: ^{5/} 186,000
<u>Dairy Products</u>			
Butter	: do.	: July 1	: 707
Dried whole milk	: do.	: July 1	: 7
Dried buttermilk	: do.	: July 1	: 496
Dried cream	: do.	: July 1	: .5
Dried skim milk	: do.	: July 1	: 1,807
Malted milk and compounds	: do.	: July 1	: 6
Cheddar cheese	: do.	: July 1	: 2,780
Edam and Gouda cheese	: do.	: July 1	: 4,600
Blue mold cheese	: do.	: July 1	: 4,167
Italian type cheeses ^{6/}	: do.	: July 1	: 9,200
<u>Oilseeds ^{7/}</u>			
Peanuts	: do.	: July 1	: ^{8/} 1,709

^{1/} In addition to these quotas, import fees under Sec. 22 have been imposed on flaxseed and linseed oil, peanut oil and shelled almonds and filberts.

^{2/} The quotas exclude wheat and flour "unfit for human consumption," or for experimental purposes and all in the case of all grains certified or registered seed approved for planting under the Federal Seed Act.

^{3/} Flour, semolina, crushed or cracked wheat and similar products.

^{4/} The Canadian government indicated it will limit exports of feed barley to the U. S. to 3.5 million bushels during this same period.

^{5/} About 3.3 million bushels of which not more than 15,000 pounds may be rye flour or meal.

^{6/} Romano, (made from cow's milk) Reggiano, Parmesano, Provoloni, Provolette, and Sbrinz.

^{7/} Argentina and Paraguay indicated they would voluntarily limit tung-nut and tung-oil exports to the U. S. to 24.4 million pounds, oil equivalent, during the year ending October 31, 1955. As a result, no U. S. import quota was imposed.

^{8/} Shelled basis. Peanuts in the shell charged against this quota on basis of 75 pounds for each 100 pounds of in shell weight. By Presidential proclamation an additional quota of 51 million pounds became applicable on March 10 for the period ending June 30, 1955. A fee of 2 cents per pound is applicable to this supplemental quota.

Source: U. S. Tariff Commission" Investigations under Sec. 22 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act" February 1955.

Section 22 import quotas were imposed on oats on December 26, 1953, on rye, rye flour and meal on March 31, 1954 and on barley and barley malt on October 1, 1954. All commodities under Section 22 import control represented 7 percent of supplementary agricultural imports in 1954. Import controls currently in effect are listed in table 2.

The value of imports of complementary products--those not produced commercially in this country--was slightly above 1953. The value of rubber, carpet wool and industrial fiber imports was reduced. However, the value of most food commodities in this group increased. The value of coffee imports increased slightly from 1953 to 1954, despite a drop of one-fifth in volume. Cocoa imports rose 50 percent in value because of a very large price increase.

FARM INCOME

Farmers received approximately 4.5 billion dollars from marketings in the first two months of 1955, down 5 percent from a year ago. Prices averaged 5 percent lower. Receipts from livestock and products were 2.5 billion dollars, 9 percent below the corresponding period in 1954, with prices down 13 percent. Crop receipts were 2.0 billion dollars, about the same as last year. Prices of crops averaged 3 percent higher than a year ago, but marketings were down slightly.

Total cash receipts from marketings in February are estimated at 1.9 billion dollars, down 25 percent from January and 5 percent from February 1954. The drop from January was due to a substantial seasonal decline in marketings, part of which was caused by fewer marketing days in February. The decline from February 1954 was due to lower prices. Receipts of 1.2 billion dollars from livestock and products showed a seasonal decline of 9 percent, and were 10 percent below a year ago because of lower prices. Crop receipts in February were 0.7 billion dollars, down 40 percent from January because of smaller marketings of nearly all the principal crops. February crop receipts were up slightly from a year ago.

LIVESTOCK AND MEAT

Meat production so far in 1955 has been greater than a year earlier. The increase has been in pork. Slaughter of hogs through mid-March averaged almost 20 percent over a year earlier. The hog slaughter rate will subside during April, and by July will probably be only a little above mid-1954. Cattle and calf slaughter so far this year has been about the same as a year ago, and will likely continue so this

spring. Slaughter this summer may be below last summer, when it was increased by drought, but by fall it will probably exceed a year earlier. Sheep and lamb slaughter will likely continue at around 1954 levels.

With more pork, and as much beef, output of meat in 1955 will reach a new high.

Hog prices through mid-March were much lower than a year before, primarily because of larger slaughter. Lower prices for lard and reduced demand for pork to go into storage also contributed to price weakness. A general rise in hog prices is expected this spring and a seasonal high will be reached in mid-summer. However, prices will continue below last year.

Prices of the better grades of fed cattle in early March were higher than a year earlier, but prices of cows were a little lower. Prices of the higher grades will likely decline further to a seasonal low in the spring or early summer, but the average for the entire season will likely be as high or a little higher than last year. Grass cattle prices are expected to show further seasonal strength this spring but to decline during the summer and fall.

Prices of lambs have increased this winter and have been close to those of a year earlier. The usual seasonal peak is due in the spring, to be followed by a decline when marketings of new-crop lambs increase materially.

DAIRY PRODUCTS

Production of milk in February was slightly lower than a year earlier for the third consecutive month, while consumption of fluid milk and some of the manufactured dairy products continued larger. As a result, price-support sales to the Government have been considerably less than a year earlier.

The decline in output from a year earlier is due to the smaller number of milk cows on farms. Output per cow continued at record high. Production of milk will increase seasonally to the annual peak in June and the total for the year, barring unfavorable weather conditions, will be in the neighborhood of the 123.5 billion pounds produced in 1954.

Sales of fluid milk continue larger than a year earlier. In January, sales in selected Federal order markets were in the neighborhood of 4 percent above those of January 1954. The special school milk program, higher consumer incomes, population growth and lower prices in a number of cities have contributed to the increase in fluid milk sales.

With production slightly below last year and sales of fluid milk greater, considerably less milk has been available for factory production. For several weeks, output of butter and cheese has been running 15 percent under a year earlier. Since consumption of several of the manufactured products is greater than a year earlier, substantially smaller quantities have been sold to the Government under the price-support program. In the marketing year which ends March 31, the milk equivalent of sales to the Government will be slightly under 6 billion pounds compared with 11 billion pounds in 1953-54. Surplus sales to the Government in March 1954 were unusually heavy because of the impending reduction in price-support level as of April 1, 1954. Since the support level will not be changed this year, there is no special incentive to increase sales to the Government this March. In recent weeks, sales to the Government under price support have been in the neighborhood of 3 million pounds for butter and cheese and 6 million pounds for nonfat dry milk per week. CCC stocks of dairy products have been reduced about a third in the last 8 months.

While the price-support level for manufacturing milk will be the same this marketing year as last, the price received by farmers for milk in many fluid milk areas will increase some, since a greater proportion of milk deliveries will be used in fluid outlets. On the whole, it would appear that the average price received for all milk delivered to plants and dealers in 1955 will be about \$4.00 per hundredweight, slightly above the April-December 1954 average. The butterfat price will average about the same as in April-December 1954. Cash receipts from the sale of dairy products in 1955 probably will be about the same as a year earlier.

POULTRY AND EGGS

After rising sharply during the last half of January and the first half of February, egg prices were generally steady through the first week of March, then declined somewhat. Prices farmers will receive for eggs in the next 6 months probably will average higher than the low prices of a year earlier. Reasons for the price advance during January and February are not conclusive. Severe weather in the mid-West, which reduced receipts in terminal markets, probably contributed and rate-of-lay per bird on March 1 was 6 percent lower than a year earlier. But the price rise began at a time when egg production was rising seasonally and for the country as a whole was above a year earlier.

Egg production during the next few months probably will be slightly above a year earlier. The number of layers on farms March 1 was slightly above the same date last year. The rate of lay per bird is likely to be about the same as last year in the months of April and May.

Farmers' February 1 intentions were to buy 18 percent fewer chicks for laying flock replacement than last year. The rise in egg prices in January and February may lead farmers to buy more chicks than they had planned. But hatchings for flock replacement early this season were substantially below 1954. On March 1, 16 percent fewer eggs were in incubators than a year earlier. All of the decline was in eggs for replacement stock. Broiler activity was about the same as the year-ago level.

Broiler prices continued high enough into March to induce increases in placements. The mid-February price received by farmers was 25.2 cents per pound, and prices ranged between 28 and 30 cents in many broiler areas during the week ending March 18. Chick placements and eggs set in incubators in specialized broiler producing areas in recent weeks have been close to a year ago. Last year's placements resulted in prices unsatisfactory to producers.

The outlook for 1955 turkey production is still subject to change from farmers' early intentions, which in January were to produce about the same number of heavy-type turkeys as last year and 11 percent fewer light-breed turkeys. Current data on numbers of turkeys tested for inclusion in breeding flocks, and hatchery activity, are fairly consistent with these intentions. But there is still time for farmers to change their plans.

OILSEEDS, FATS AND OILS

Soybean prices have declined during the past month, reflecting large supplies of beans and some weakening in prices of the products. Exports continue to run ahead of a year ago, and the season's total probably will be substantially above last year's record of nearly 40 million bushels.

Soybeans from the 1955 crop will be supported at a national average price to farmers of \$2.04 per bushel, 18 cents less than a year ago, the Department announced in March. In terms of parity, support has been lowered from 80 percent to 70 percent. In most of the postwar period, soybean prices have been well above support and few beans were acquired by the Government.

Flaxseed prices for the 1955 crop will be supported at \$2.91 per bushel, farm basis, down 23 cents from a year ago. The support is equal to 65 percent of parity compared with 70 percent last year and 80 percent two years earlier. CCC took over 16 percent of the 1952 crop, 46 percent of the 1953 crop and is expected to get about 25 percent of the 1954 crop. Prices for 1954 crop seed have been around support.

Cottonseed will be supported on a basis to reflect 65 percent of the February 15, 1955 (75 percent for the 1954 crop) parity price of \$71.30 per ton average quality seed. Loans on farm stored cottonseed will be available at an average of \$46.00 per ton basis grade (100) [\$54.00 for the 1954 crop]. Purchase price to producers will be at an average of \$42.00 per ton basis grade (100) [\$50.00 for the 1954 crop].

The President announced in March that the import quota for peanuts through the fiscal year ending June 30, 1955 has been increased from 2 million to 53 million pounds, shelled basis, in order to alleviate the shortage resulting from the small 1954 crop. The 1954 output was about a third less than in 1953, primarily because of drought in the Southeastern and Southwestern producing areas.

Reports as of March 1 indicate that the acreage planted to soybeans this year will be up sharply from last year and flaxseed acreage will be somewhat below last year's high level. If growing conditions are average, output of these crops again will be large.

Nonfood uses of fats and oils continued to decline in 1954, sinking to 19.5 pounds per person. This is 1.4 pounds less than a year earlier and the lowest since the depths of the depression in the early 30's. Soap use was down the most though consumption in drying oils also declined considerably. Other uses remained about the same. Reduced disappearance reflected increased competition from other products and the general decline in economic activity in 1954. Fats and oils probably will meet increasing competition from other materials in 1955 but this may be partly offset by increased demand resulting from the recent general upturn in the economy.

CORN AND OTHER FEED

Market prices of corn and most other feeds declined during February, and in the first half of March feed prices were generally somewhat lower than a year earlier. The price of No. 3 Yellow corn at Chicago averaged \$1.43 per bushel for the week ending March 12, 7 cents lower than a month earlier and 13 cents lower than a year earlier. Prices of oats, barley, and sorghum grain are below a year earlier and probably will average lower this summer, if the 1955 growing season is normal. Large acreages of these crops are again in prospect, and the 1955 support prices for the 3 grains are about a fifth lower than in 1954. Corn prices are expected to be relatively strong compared with other feed grains during the next few months, as a large part of the reserve stocks of corn is owned by CCC or under loan. The price of soybean meal has been \$15 to \$20 per ton below a year earlier in recent weeks, and also has been lower relative to other protein feeds. This reflects the much larger production of soybean meal in prospect for the 1954-55 season.

Market receipts of corn so far this season have been somewhat smaller than in the 2 preceding years and much of the corn has been of lower quality. Although prices have been below the support level, farmers had placed only 131 million bushels of corn under loan and purchase agreement through mid-February. This was considerably less than in the same period of 1953-54, when the crop was larger and all producers were eligible for price support loans. Record quantities of 1954 oats, barley, and sorghum grains have been placed under price support.

The March 1 prospective plantings report indicated that the 1955 acreage of feed grains will be a little above last year's level and the largest in recent years. A big carryover of feed grains is in prospect and, if the growing season is normal, the 1955-56 feed grain supply probably will at least equal the record supply in 1954-55.

The 1955 Argentine corn crop is unofficially forecast at 125 million bushels, on the basis of conditions in March. This is about a third less than the 1954 crop. The reduction reflects hot, dry weather, which cut yields in some areas. It probably will mean smaller exports of corn from Argentina in April-March 1955-56 than the exports of more than 80 million bushels in 1954-55.

WHEAT

Wheat prices are expected to continue fairly close to present levels with the possibility of some strengthening until new crop conditions become a market factor, probably in late spring. The preliminary announced loan rate for the 1955 crop is 8 percent less than for the 1954 crop.

Stocks of wheat in all positions on January 1, 1955 totaled 1,460 million bushels. Of this, the CCC owned 749 million bushels and 427 million were under, or being placed under, price support--a total of 1,176 million bushels owned by CCC and under support. This would leave only 284 million bushels of free wheat for use in the January-June period. In the January-June period of 1954, 325 million bushels were used in the United States. Wheat can, of course, still move out from under price support when farmers find the market price attractive enough.

The full impact of this apparent shortage has not been felt to date since needed supplies, quality considered, are still available. In late May and in June a part of the shortage can be offset by early marketings of new crop wheat. Merchant-mill stocks on January 1, this year, were relatively large, totaling 145 million bushels, compared with 123 million a year earlier, and 118 million, the 1949-53 average.

Compared with the loan levels, the March 21 price of No. 2 Hard, Winter Wheat, ordinary protein at Kansas City was 11 cents lower, No. 2 Soft Red Winter at St. Louis was 28 cents lower, and No. 1 Dark Northern Spring, ordinary protein, at Minneapolis was 3 cents lower, while the price of No. 2 Hard Amber Durum wheat was \$1.30 higher.

FRUIT

With heavier buying by makers of frozen concentrate, grower prices for Florida oranges increased sharply in February and early March to levels considerably higher than a year earlier. In early March, sales of Florida Valencias became heavy. Remaining supplies of this variety are about the same as a year ago. With demand continuing strong, some further increase in prices seems probable this spring. During February and early March, auction prices for California Navel oranges also increased considerably and, despite some weakening in mid-March, are moderately higher than a year earlier. Grower prices for Florida grapefruit tended to decline in February but in early March they averaged a little higher than a year previously. Supplies remaining to be marketed after mid-March were about 20 percent smaller than a year earlier.

Although total cold-storage stocks of apples on March 1, 1955 were 22 percent larger than a year earlier, they were 7 percent smaller in Washington. Partly for this reason, shipping-point prices in this State continued to advance in early March. In eastern States, prices tended to hold steady for apples of good quality and condition. These States still have relatively heavy supplies of utility grades, which are moving slowly to fresh markets at prices under those for the better apples. With packers' stocks of canned apples and applesauce on February 1, 1955 much heavier than a year earlier and a decrease in retail prices for these products, demand for processing additional apples probably will not be as strong as last spring. Cold storage stocks of pears on March 1, 1955 were about 31 percent larger than a year earlier and 64 percent larger than usual for that date. New York City auction prices for D'Anjou, the principal variety now available, averaged about as high in early March as a year earlier.

After small production early in the season output of frozen orange concentrate in Florida during February was considerably heavier than in February 1954. By March 5 of the 1954-55 season output totaled nearly 33 million gallons, about 6 percent smaller than in the same part of 1953-54. The 1954-55 pack so far has come from over 23 million boxes of oranges, mostly mid-season varieties. Through March 5, 1955, an additional 1 million boxes were used for making "chilled" single-strength orange juice. Although a small volume of this product was made in 1953-54, output

increased rapidly in the current season. This juice is retailed in quart containers, along with fresh dairy products. Prices run somewhat higher than for an equivalent amount of juice made from frozen concentrate.

The Florida pack of canned orange juice through March 5 of the 1954-55 season was about 14.9 million gallons, 9 percent larger than in the same part of 1953-54. But the packs of other canned citrus juices were considerably smaller. Total stocks of canned citrus juices held by Florida packers on March 5, 1955 were 2 percent larger than a year earlier.

Cold-storage holdings of frozen orange juice, mostly concentrate, were about 25.5 million gallons on March 1, 1955, 1 percent larger than on that date in 1954. Total cold-storage stocks of frozen deciduous fruits on March 1 were 5 percent larger. However, stocks of strawberries, the leading item, were 12 percent smaller.

The 1955 crop of strawberries in the early spring States (Louisiana, Alabama, Texas) was forecast as of March 1 at approximately 803,000 crates (24 quarts), 23 percent less than production in these States in 1954. Acreage in the mid-spring States is about the same as in 1954, while that in the late-spring States is slightly larger.

COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES

For Fresh Market

The demand for fresh vegetables is expected to be at least as strong this spring as last. Consumer income probably will continue high, a little above a year earlier, and price competition between fresh and processed vegetables in general is likely to be no stronger in the next few months than it was during the same period of 1954. The average of prices received this spring by growers for vegetables produced for fresh market sale will thus be determined largely by the size of the harvest and the general pattern of marketings.

Indications as of March 1 pointed to heavier production this year than last of early-spring asparagus, broccoli and onions, and declines for both cauliflower and lettuce. For asparagus and broccoli the prospective increase in early-spring output is the result of the larger acreage for harvest, since yields are not expected to be above a year earlier. For onions, the reverse is indicated. The probable reduction in the 1955 early-spring crop of both cauliflower and lettuce is expected because of smaller acreage and yields.

For other spring vegetables, indications point to larger acreages for harvest than last year for beets, cabbage, carrots, shallots, spinach, and mid-and late-spring asparagus. On the other hand, declines are expected for early-spring tomatoes and for watermelons. For the summer vegetables, indications are for a larger acreage for harvest of early-season watermelons this year than last. Prospective acreage declines for early-summer cabbage and onions are expected to be a little more than offset in total by increases in the corresponding late-summer crops.

For Processing

According to indications as of March 1, the 1955 winter and early-spring crops of spinach for processing will total about 68,000 tons, 40 percent more than that of a year earlier. The increase probably will come from California, where the acreage and yields indicated for this year are much larger than in early-spring 1954. Increased production of green peas for processing is also in prospect this year if planting intentions as of March 1 materialize and yields per acre are at least close to those in 1954. Last year the packs of commercially processed green peas and spinach were smaller than in 1953.

POTATOES AND SWEETPOTATOES

The average of potato prices to growers during the next month or so are expected to continue well above those of a year earlier. Supplies, at least through mid-spring, will remain smaller than in the same period of 1954 and market prices have recently strengthened.

The quantity of 1954 late-crop potatoes remaining to be marketed is somewhat smaller than at the same time last year. Supplies from the 1955 early-spring crop, which are expected to be moderately larger than a year earlier, may reach the market in volume a little later this year than usual. The delay in marketings of early-spring potatoes is expected because unfavorable weather in January and February retarded growth of the crop in some of the important Southern producing areas, particularly in the Hastings area of Florida. Yields in these early-spring areas are not expected to average as high as in 1954, so production probably will not be much larger than that harvested there in 1954 even though the indicated acreage for harvest is larger this year.

The Department of Agriculture on March 1 announced that a payment of about 25 cents per hundredweight will be made for potatoes diverted to starch and flour. Payment will be limited to potatoes meeting at least the following specifications: U. S. No. 2 grade and 2-inch minimum diameter. No direct purchases will be made by the Department. According to the announcement, the purpose of this program is to facilitate the diversion of lower grade potatoes into potato starch and potato flour so

that the grading and marketing of the better quality potatoes to consumers will be expedited. The duration of this program will depend upon market developments.

On March 2 the Department approved a change in the regulations governing the shipment of tablestock potatoes out of Maine. Except for Irish Cobblers and Bliss Triumphs, shipments from Maine of the other varieties of round-white or red-skinned varieties packed in 100 pound containers or larger, are limited to U. S. No. 1 grade and 2 1/4 inch minimum diameter and larger. The round-white and red-skinned varieties other than the Irish Cobbler and the Bliss Triumph comprise the bulk of the Maine potatoes available for sale. Up to March 7, when the change in the regulations became operative, all round varieties of potatoes grading U. S. No. 1 and 2-inch diameter or better could be shipped in 100 pound containers or larger.

The grade and size regulations on shipments from Maine of the Irish Cobbler and Bliss Triumph varieties packed in 100 pound containers or larger remain unchanged--U. S. No. 1 grade and 2 inch minimum diameter. The regulations were also not changed for shipments of round-white and red-skinned varieties of potatoes packed in containers of less than 100 pounds, for the long varieties, and for potatoes sold for processing into potato chips.

The report of prospective plantings for 1955 indicates that farmers in the intermediate and late States plan to plant almost as large an acreage to potatoes this year as in 1954. With yields equal to those of recent years, by States, potato production on the intended acreage in these two areas would be somewhat larger than last year, when unfavorable weather reduced yields in some of the important producing States.

Farm prices for sweetpotatoes averaged higher than a year earlier during January and February. Prices probably will rise during the next month or two as supplies diminish and continue above those in the same period of 1954, although they are not expected to equal the record prices of the same months of 1953.

The intended acreage to be planted to sweetpotatoes in 1955 is practically the same as that planted last year. If yields equal the 1949-53 average by States, sweetpotato production in the intended acreage would exceed output in 1954, when drought reduced yields in many of the Southern States.

DRY EDIBLE BEANS AND PEAS

Prices received by growers for dry beans in February averaged slightly lower than a month earlier, but remained 91 percent of the parity price and moderately above the average price received a year

earlier. In September 1954, the beginning of the 1954-55 marketing season, dry bean prices averaged almost 10 percent lower than a year earlier. Reflecting mainly the effect of smaller supplies and fairly strong demand for white beans and red kidney beans, prices increased and by December 15 were higher than on the same date in 1953. Prospects for the next few months are that prices probably will average at least as high as a year earlier.

The Department of Agriculture on March 11 announced that the National average support level for 1955-crop dry edible beans has been established at \$6.36 per hundredweight. This is equivalent to 70 percent of the February 15 parity level for dry beans. For 1954-crop beans the support level was \$7.24 per hundredweight, equivalent to 80 percent of the February 15 parity level.

Prices to growers for dry field peas have been at record levels in every month since November. Prices have been maintained mainly because of the strong export demand. The 1954 crop was 3 percent larger than the preceding one. Prices probably will continue well above a year earlier during most of the remaining months of the 1954-55 marketing year.

Farmers plan to plant a moderately larger acreage to both dry edible beans and field peas this year than last, according to reports of March 1 intentions. One of the major reasons for the planned increase in acreage of dry beans is the use of land diverted from allotment crops. But farmers may review their plans in light of the support price level for 1955-crop dry beans.

With yields equal to the 1949-53 average by States, dry edible bean production on the intended acreage would be more than 10 percent larger in 1955 than in 1954, but that of dry field peas would be down slightly.

COTTON

The average price for Middling, 15/16 inch cotton at the 14 spot markets declined to 33.29 cents per pound on March 7 and 8, the lowest point of the season. This compares with the average CCC loan rate for 1954-crop cotton at these markets of 33.46 cents. On March 18 the price had risen to 33.46 cents. The average for February was 34.05 cents per pound.

From August 1, 1954 through February 1955 the average monthly price for Middling 15/16 inch cotton at the 10 spot markets was above a year earlier. However, in the first half of March 1955 daily average prices were below those of a year earlier. Prices declined from February to March this year in contrast to the increase last year.

The decline in prices in March may have been caused by relatively large free stocks of upland cotton (stocks not held by CCC) and a weakening of demand in recent weeks. These stocks, estimated to have been about 6.9 million bales on March 1, are probably adequate for the remainder of the season without large additions from CCC held stocks.

Cotton stocks held by CCC (owned and held as collateral against outstanding loans) totaled 8,559 thousand bales on March 11, 1955. This compares with 8,253 thousand bales a year earlier and the peak for the current season of 8,716 thousand bales on January 28.

On February 9, 1955 the Bureau of the Census revised the carry-over figure for July 31, 1954 to 9,727,892 bales, an increase of 151,691 bales. The figure for stocks in public storage and compresses was revised upward 152,289 bales while the figure for stocks in consuming establishments was reduced 598 bales. Upland stocks were increased approximately 134,000 bales and extra-long-staple stocks about 18,000. Minimum support prices for the 1955 cotton crops were announced on February 23. The minimum for Middling, 7/8 inch cotton at average location was set at 31.70 cents per pound and the minimum for extra-long staple was set at 55.20 cents. These prices were 90 and 75 percent, respectively, of the February 15 parity prices and compare with 1954 support prices of 31.58 and 65.53 cents per pound. If parity prices on August 1, 1955 (those announced as of July 15) are higher than those of February 15, the support levels will be increased accordingly.

The daily rate of mill consumption of cotton averaged 34,544 bales from August 1, 1954 to February 26, 1955. This compares with 34,763 a year earlier. After adjustment for seasonality, the trend in the rate of consumption from month to month during the first 7 months of the 1953-54 season was generally down. During the same months in 1954-55, the rate of consumption tended to increase.

The average daily rate of consumption in January showed about a normal seasonal gain from December, and February showed a more than seasonal increase from January. February normally shows the highest rate of consumption of any month during the cotton marketing year. The rate usually declines with each month following February to a low in July.

WOOL

Wool prices in both domestic and foreign markets in mid-March were about the same as in February, but slightly lower than a year earlier. Quotations for most domestic descriptions were at or below 1954

price support program loan rates. The average of prices received by growers for shorn wool during the 1954 marketing season beginning April 1, including an allowance for wool under loan, is estimated at 53.9 cents per pound, grease basis, 1 cent below the average for 1953 but 0.7 cents above the national average loan rate under the 1954 price support program. The average of prices received at mid-February was 50.7 cents per pound, 0.2 cents above a month earlier but 2.1 cents below a year earlier.

As of January 31, loans were outstanding on about 35 million pounds, actual weight, of shorn and pulled wool under the 1954 price support program. Loan notes under the program mature on April 30, 1955. Wool serving as security on loan notes not repaid on or before that date will be offered for sale from May 1 through May 14, 1955, at the best price obtainable but not lower than the principal amount of the loan note plus interest and charges. Wool for which no offers are received or for which prices offered are below the acceptable minimum will be purchased by CCC.

Total domestic production of wool in 1954 is estimated at 276.1 million pounds, consisting of 232.6 million pounds of shorn wool and 43.5 million pounds of pulled wool. Production of both shorn and pulled was slightly larger than in 1953. The clean wool equivalent of the total probably was in the neighborhood of 135 million pounds, an increase of about 2 million pounds from 1953.

During January, domestic mills consumed apparel wool at a weekly rate about 14 percent above that of a year earlier. The rate of carpet wool consumption was about 1 percent above a year earlier.

World consumption of wool during 1954 is estimated at 2,530 million pounds, clean, about 4 percent less than in 1953.

Wool production in the United States in 1955 will probably not be much different from a year earlier. Production of shorn wool will be about the same or a little larger than last year if the trend toward a heavier fleece weight continues. Sheep and lamb slaughter is expected to be lower this year and pulled wool production will probably be a little lower if the average weight of wool per pelt is about the same as last year.

TOBACCO

The manufacture of tobacco products is expected to absorb approximately the same quantities of leaf during the 1954-55 marketing year as in 1953-54. During the calendar year 1954, cigarette output

at 402 billion was 5 percent lower than in 1953. In 1955 cigarette consumption is expected to be fairly near the 1954 level. King size and filter tip cigarettes are likely to gain a greater share of the market. The number of cigars and the quantities of snuff and smoking tobacco manufactured in 1955 are expected to be about the same as in 1954 but chewing tobacco seems likely to continue its gradual downward trend.

Exports of unmanufactured tobacco in 1954-55 probably will exceed those in 1953-54 by 5 percent or more. Sizable shipments to Germany and the United Kingdom are expected during the first half of 1955.

The great bulk of the 1954 tobacco crop has been marketed with the exception of Maryland tobacco, which is usually marketed in the spring and summer of the year after it is produced. The 1954 flue-cured crop brought an average of 52.7 cents per pound--practically the same as in 1953--although there were significant differences by belts. The record size Burley crop averaged near 49.6 cents per pound--5 percent less than last season. Dark air-cured and fire-cured types averaged 34.4 and 37.7 cents per pound--both several cents above the previous season when there was much poor quality tobacco. Prices of Pennsylvania cigar filler and Wisconsin binder types averaged fairly close to last season's but the proportion of hail-and hurricane-damaged tobacco in the Connecticut Valley will pull down the overall average of those binder types.

About one-third of the unusually large Burley crop went into Government loan stocks in the 1954 season. The supply of Burley (1954-55 is 8 percent above 1953-54) is a matter of serious concern to growers and their congressional and administrative officials. Tobacco subcommittees of the Senate and House Agriculture Committees have held hearings to consider possible changes that may be needed in legislation.

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.

Penalty for private use to avoid
payment of postage \$300

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

AMS-DPS-3-55

:
: NOTICE
: If you no longer need this
: publication, check here ☐
: return this sheet, and your
: name will be dropped from the
: mailing list.
:
: If your address should be
: changed, write the new address
: on this sheet and return the whole
: sheet to:
: Agricultural Marketing Service,
: United States Department of
: Agriculture
: Washington 25, D. C.
:

R. B. EVANS
INTERNAT'L. COTTON ADV. COMM.
3-8-50
PSL-1 SOUTH AGRI. BLDG.

